

The Crucible, Act IV by Arthur Miller
Vocabulary Warm-up Exercises

Exercise A Fill in the blanks, using each word from Word List A only once.

My friend Hal is the incarnation or [1] _____ of the aggressive, successful high school debater. Hal is never happier than when two rival teams are in [2] _____ for a trophy or championship. At a crucial debate, he will sit quietly behind his desk, remaining [3] _____ as his opponents make their arguments. Then Hal [4] _____ his partner lightly on the arm. His teammate agrees that they will not give the opposition any [5] _____. When Hal rises to deliver his speech, he inevitably seems [6] _____, full of good will and common sense. As he drives home his points, however, it would be fair to describe him as [7] _____ and unwilling to accept any concessions from the other side. Starting out in a low but persuasive voice, it is not unusual for Hal to [8] _____ his final point in the conclusion of his speech. Whatever you think of Hal's tactics, it's clear he is a successful debater: He had won seven championship trophies.

Exercise B Decide whether each statement below is true or false. Circle T or F, and explain your answer.

1. If you suspect that people *beguile* you, you become wary of a trick.
T / F _____
2. Someone in a *conciliatory* mood refuses the chance for a reconciliation.
T / F _____
3. A *disputation* among various parties involves discord and disagreement.
T / F _____
4. Someone who looks *gaunt* may not have been getting sufficient food and sleep.
T / F _____
5. A person who speaks *inaudibly* can be heard by everyone in a large auditorium.
T / F _____
6. *Penitence* for wrongdoing requires sincere regret.
T / F _____
7. To take *retaliation* on others is a form of revenge.
T / F _____
8. Most people find a *stench* appealing.
T / F _____